



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Christopher Buckner bound over to circuit court for VBT shooting

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

Christopher Isaiah Buckner, 34, of Carleton was bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice for a March 8 arraignment on the information on eight charges in a Rawsonville Road shooting that left the victim's hand having to be reattached.



Buckner

34th District Court Chief Judge Brian Oakley held the live preliminary exam on March 1 for Buckner, with Assistant Wayne County prosecutor Rima Yahfoufi and defense attorney Jonathan Cohen.

The 40-year-old victim Ulysee Kirkland was in court in a wheelchair and testified to the events that took place on Jan. 30, 2023 around 6:45 a.m. He testified his left hand had to be surgically attached to his body for blood flow due to his hand being shot, and losing two fingers.

Kirkland testified he was traveling north on Rawsonville Road near Grove, when defendant Buckner pulled in front of him, got out of his vehicle with a long gun, and fired three rounds into his GMC-Yukon, with the first round injuring his left hand.

Kirkland identified Buckner to the police as the person who shot him, and also described the silver-colored Dodge Charger he was driving.

In an attempt to escape the defendant, the victim crashed into the rear of the defendant's car, and pulled into the Tim Horton's parking lot, waiting for police and medical.

Kirkland stated he met the defendant face to face in the past and knew who he was. He also testified he had gone through several hand surgeries, and was scheduled for another on March 3.

Judge Oakley bound him over to circuit

court on all counts:

- Assault with intent to murder;
- Assault with intent to do great bodily harm, less than murder;
- Assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault);
- Weapons, firearms – possession by felon; and
- Four felony weapons charges.

Bond of \$500,000 cash/surety was set at arraignment, but then reduced to \$100,000 by Judge Lisa Martin at a probable cause conference on Feb. 15. The bond of \$100,000 was continued and he was not to be released without a GPS tether.

Van Buren Township Police reported that on Jan. 30, they responded at 6:45 a.m. to the report of a subject firing shots into a vehicle in the area of Rawsonville and Grove roads.

Deputy Chief Joshua Monte said responding officers discovered a victim shot multiple times seated inside his vehicle. Officers were able to provide first aid to the victim who was transported to a local hospital.

The suspect was taken into custody a short-time later at his residence by Van Buren officers assisted by deputies from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

The victim, a male from Van Buren Township, was hospitalized in stable condition.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright swore Merrie Coburn in as executive director of the VBT Downtown Development Authority at the Jan. 24 meeting of the DDA.

Van Buren Township DDA to detail plans for Belleville Road widening

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

During a 38-minute meeting on Feb. 28, the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority agreed that no time should be wasted on plans for widening of the one mile of Belleville Road between Tyler and Ecorse roads.

The DDA's new executive director Merrie Coburn, in office at her first meeting, reported to date the DDA has obtained 20 right-of-way acquisitions and an additional 14 are needed.

The DDA finally has received contact information for a house on the west side of Belleville Road that had been a sticking point in the right-of-way project and more information should be forthcoming.

There was discussion on whether to seek bids for a consultant to acquire the final 14 rights of way, but chairman

Craig Atchinson said the Commonwealth Associates consultant they had did good work and they should stay with them.

He said he didn't want to waste time with going out for bids when it isn't needed.

Susan Ireland, the retiring DDA executive director at her last meeting, said after the first land appraisal, they had to get a second appraisal and it took time.

Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara agreed with chairman Atchinson about moving quickly. He said they could get land appraisals from a real estate representative and then another and give the property owner the high bid without discussing it.

McNamara said the water main is 20-30 years old along that stretch of Belleville Road and DDA secretary Chris Brown, a builder, said it was more like 40 years old.

(continued on page 16)



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SECOND FRONT PAGE

City Council sets Goat Day for June 17 at Horizon Park

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

This year's Goat Day will be on Saturday, June 17, at Horizon Park in Belleville.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council, Mayor Pro Tem Ken Voigt, who was presiding in the absence of the mayor, announced that the date for Goat Day had been set and it would include a band, food trucks, and 4-H members with their goats.

People will be able to pet the goats and take selfies with them, while listening to the 4-H members give the details about goats.

Mayor Pro Tem Voigt said that goats have been found to be cost-effective and popular for trimming the bank of Belleville Lake. He said last year they had a Goat Day and it was very successful, so they are having another one this year.

He said last year they sold \$3,000 worth of goat T-shirts and the money went to the community food pantry.

He said Moving the Mitten will sponsor the band and the 4-H will bring the goats.

"It will be like Music in the Park, but with goats," he said, adding activities will start about 1 or 2 p.m.

In other business at Monday's meeting,

the council:

- Approved the proposal by the Belleville High School Varsity Dance Team to adopt the Fourth Street Square and Fourth Street Place and to clean them up on Sundays (or every other Sunday) during the months of June and July as a public service. They will report anything that needs fixing to the city to give the city another set of eyes. Councilman Tom Fielder asked if they couldn't do it on Tuesdays after the Farmers' Market and car show on Mondays. Projects Administrator Steve Jones said the parttime Downtown Development Authority staff will clean on Tuesdays and the Dance Team will get the area fresh for the Monday events;

- Approved a special event application for a Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll fund raiser at Five Points on Palm Sunday weekend from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 31 and April 1, and 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 2. This is an annual event to raise funds to assist Michigan citizens with intellectual / developmental disabilities;

- Approved holding the annual citywide yard sale event on September 9 and 10;

- Approved accounts payable of \$488,629.23 and the following

departmental purchase in excess of \$500: to West Shore Fire, Inc., \$895 for testing of air bottles for the fire department;

- Heard City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson say they are preparing a design for Victory Station so they can take it to the planning commission and then go out for bids. Then the city can hold a ground breaking with county officials to mark where most of the money came from for the renovations. Also, he noted that on Thursday, March 9, the planning commission will hold a public hearing on the marijuana ordinance and the commission's recommendation will come to the city council for action. Then, they can start talking about revising the city charter, he said;

- Learned the Michigan Department of the Treasury has announced the marijuana revenue going to local municipalities from the total \$59.5 million being distributed among 224 municipalities and counties as a part of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act. In the tri-community only the city of Belleville is set to receive a check for \$51,841.21 based on the revenue collected in FY 2022 for the one license it has for adult use marijuana distribution;

- Heard Councilman Jeremiah Beebe say he would like to know how it's going for Peoples Express and asked the administration to invite them to come back and talk to the council. Councilman Beebe also recognized the BHS wrestlers that placed in state competition: Connor Williams placed third and Demond Robinson placed sixth in their weight classes;

- Discussed at length poor road conditions at Harbour Pointe and throughout the city. A resident of Harbour Pointe said snowblowers have been damaged by pieces of pavement loose beneath the snow in the subdivision. Voigt said the city is actively trying to get a program for all the streets in the city. He referred to the extra money the city just got from the marijuana, "I'm just one, but I'd say put it in a road fund"; and

- Heard Allen Foulkes say that his four children will be competing in the state championships in Olympic Style Tae Kwon Do for fighting black belts at Hype Athletics in Wayne on Saturday and he invited everyone to come watch them compete.

Mayor Kerreen Conley and Councilwoman Kelly Bates were absent and excused from Monday's meeting.

District Library works to fine-tune its Patron Behavior Policy

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on Feb. 14, the Belleville Area District Library discussed at-length fine-tuning its Patron Behavior Policy as recommended by the library attorney.

After discussion, Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said she will reach out to the attorney to clarify language concerning shall/may, weapons, gender language, and wifi use. She said what was presented was the attorney's standard language for libraries.

She said the library staff is flexible, when activities are rowdy and destructive they are asked to leave. When the policy is approved, a summary of the rules will be posted.

After Suchy discusses the questions with the attorney and gets recommendations, the board will again review the policy.

The focus on patron behavior was underlined when Director Suchy announced the library was the victim of an indecent exposure incident the previous week. The police were called and have issued a do-not-trespass order against the person involved and he has been banned from the library.

Suchy said the library also had to give

a teen a one-month suspension for vaping.

While discussing recent expenditures, Suchy explained they installed two new cameras, one in the teen room and one heading down the hall. There are now 12 cameras in the library.

There was discussion on how mental health issues need to be considered.

In other business at the 47-minute meeting, the board:

- Unanimously approved two changes to the Art Committee Policy striking out the part dealing with membership and striking out the office of treasurer. Updates on other policies will be considered in the future;

- Heard board president Sharon Peters say Art Committee president Michele Montour sent information by email that artwork displays by young people is being well-received in the library. Following the prize-winning Belleville Area Council for the Arts pieces displayed, artwork from students are now being displayed. The changing exhibitions now have been lined up until 2025;

- Heard Suchy report that she and chairman Peters had a meeting with Belleville City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson on the bus service being offered in the city. The company has a government grant to offer transportation to St. Joseph Hospital

and the Ypsilanti bus terminal. The library had temporarily allowed passengers to be picked up in the city/library parking lot, but there are questions of liability. Peters said the program is "not really in our wheelhouse." It is a transportation issue that should possibly be combined with senior transportation, she said. The city council was due to discuss the program at its Feb. 21 meeting;

- Heard Suchy report that the library's "curtain wall" is still leaking, but only when it rains a certain direction, not when it snows. They have been trying to fix that since the beginning and will continue, she said;

- Heard Juriga say the question of why no concrete has been put in the sidewalk across Roys Street from the library had been turned over to him. First, he said, it's obviously too cold. Then, the problem was discussed with the city. He said the minister at Grace Baptist found plans of the water pipe going under the sidewalk from the church's baptismal font and a camera confirmed that. And, there are other pipes there. The library would like to cut ties to that problem;

- Heard Barbara Miller of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts report that the new Classic Movie Series began Feb. 9 with

the library hosting "Double Indemnity" and the discussion that followed. The next movie is "Rear Window" on March 9;

- Heard Miller also announce that the BACA has set up a trip to the Detroit Institute of the Arts to see the classic film "The Conformist" on Saturday, April 8. A bus provided by the DIA will leave the Van Buren Township Hall at 11 a.m. and arrive at the DIA about noon. After a tour of the DIA and lunch, if desired, the movie will be shown from 3-5 p.m. Cost is \$20, but if you pay \$25 you get to become a member of BACA. Miller is taking reservations which can be sent to her former office at 321 Main St.; and

- Welcomed Dr. Joy Kissel to the audience of the meeting. She is a new member of the Belleville Planning Commission and was introduced by Juriga, also a longtime member of the planning commission. Dr. Kissel teaches at Washtenaw Community College.

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O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Be sure to attend March 16 meeting about our museum

The Belleville Area Museum is in the hands of Van Buren Township and it's been closed for 1,102 days, much to the chagrin of people who find this area's history important.

The township held a public meeting without elected officials where people from the tri-community were asked to write what they want at their museum on little sticky notes. That offended many attending. People have been scratching their heads ever since, wondering what in the heck is taking so long.

The township finally set a meeting for Feb. 22, but Mother Nature erased that date with a big storm. Now, the township meeting has been set for Thursday, March 16, at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library on Fourth Street in downtown Belleville. No other meetings that night.

From the advertisement for the meeting, it looks like they have decided what they are going to do with our museum because they are having prize-winning consultants Good Design Group present the proposed master plan, followed by a public comment period. We can hardly wait.

What bothers us is that everyone having a hand in this master plan – other than a few sticky notes – is not from the Belleville area. Most of the staff at Van Buren Township, talented as they are, are not originally from this area. They don't have a deep feeling for our history and how critically important we feel it is for our children to learn. If you can get to the March 16 meeting, do so. It might make a difference.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

The name of the old malt shop next to the former theater on Main Street in downtown Belleville was: "Dee's Dairy Bar" or "D's Dairy Bar," not sure of the spelling. Richard and Phyllis Smith recall that in the 1950s Walter Dewicki and his wife and sons, who lived next door, opened the popular hangout. Their son Jerry worked there for a while.

I remembered it had a big juke box and units in the booths where you could put in your coins to select records. I remember driving by with other teens to see who was there. It was quite a gathering point in its day. That's where Friends Fine Floor Covering now is located.

Jack Loria said he lived on Second Street in those days and used to enjoy hanging out at the dairy bar. He, too, remembered it was owned by the Dewickis.

Richard said in the early 1960s it was operating as Fey's Restaurant.

Bob Sears also called to confirm the name was Dee's Dairy Bar and Phyllis McClelland sent an email to say the same.

Mary Ann Bittner said, "I think the malt shop your California subscriber asked about might have been what my family knew as 'Cloverdale's' on the same side of Main Street as what was once the BELVIL movie theater. Cloverdale's was a sandwich shop with small booths as well as counter seating, known for its Cloverdale brand ice cream. For us, this was during 1973 until (not sure when)."

Mary Ann also said, "I wasn't in town during the 1950s, but would love to have seen everything. It's sad enough missing what we had in town during the 1970s through 1980s: hospital, US Post Office, A&P grocery, Foodville grocery, laundromat, Kureth's & Manning's clothing

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



stores, an office supply store, Box jewelry store, Golden Boy restaurant (now Egan's Pub), Kentucky Fried Chicken & Hoot's Boots (where Johnny's on the Lake is now), Country Sports (not sure what's there now, maybe Paddle Belleville?) Nice we still have Frosty Boy!"

In the 1950s, the Paddle Belleville building was Detroit Edison where my father would take in light bulbs to be exchanged free. After Edison, it was Chesley Odom's studios.

Jim Graham remembered the four Dewicki boys and Jerry, the second oldest, who ran the business. The other sons were Walt, Vito, and Zennin. After about a year as a deli on the left and soda shop on the right, Jerry set up a grill and booths were set up on the right and there was a penny arcade. You could test your strength, see how much electrical shock you could take and weigh yourself.

Jim remembered Mr. Dewicki was a gunsmith and he and his wife were first generation from Poland, he thinks. Next owner was "Mom Lakuta" for three or four years and then the Fay brothers, who added a pizza oven and later moved to the arcade on South Street.

Thanks to everyone for sharing your memories with us.

Phyllis and Richard will be celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary in August. Do you want to know anything about old Belleville? They are sure to know because they were there – along with Jack Loria and

the others.

One of our readers said he thinks all school students should be trained in CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation). He said he has seen classes here and there for CPR, but he thinks the students should all get the life-saving skill.

An observer of the passing scene said he thinks the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority got it wrong by voting for the widening of Belleville Road between Tyler and Ecorse to three lanes, including a center turn lane.

He said it should be five lanes, so it matches up with the roadway to the south and to the north of that span.

He said that area is very busy now and drivers dart in and out of the trailer park there as it is. And, the new senior apartment complex at Robson Road hasn't even been completed yet. It is sure to add more traffic to that area.

It's a big, costly deal to widen that roadway, but it's wasting all the effort and cost involved if you just make it three lanes, he said. Go all the way and have it match what is north of Ecorse and south of Tyler on Belleville Road, he said.



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BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Good news about BHS after-school program

To the editor:

It's a happy occasion for me to share good news in our community. For the past several months I have been a regular volunteer tutor at Belleville High School (BHS) in a program called Tiger Success Institute (TSI). This early high school intervention program seeks to identify grade nine students who may be struggling in some of their academics. These students (with parental agreement and cooperation) attend a tutoring program on Tuesday and Thursday after school, running through 4:30 p.m. After the tutoring session, the school provides a bus to take the student home, a great convenience to the student and to his/her parents. About 60 students participate in each session.

This program has been initiated by the BHS Principal Mrs. Nicole Crockett and teacher Mrs. Katie Fryske. The other teachers who make this program successful are Matt DeHaan (manager of each afternoon's initial study session) and Mrs. Linzell (coordinator and data analysis). Those who make up the corps of tutors are teachers from the faculty, talented students from the National Honors Society coordinated by Mrs. Cori Kidder, and volunteers from the community.

The program begins promptly after school with the students going to a classroom designated by subject matter: science, math, English, social studies to work for about an hour, a program well-coordinated by Mrs. Cori Kidder.

The students take a break for a snack provided by the program: pizza or a sub and the like. Then the student ensemble takes a brief, vigorous walk. After the walk the students report for the final hour of study in the library. Tutors continue to be available. I have seen this working efficiently for months.

The program from all appearances is very well organized, orderly, and well attended. I have personally observed the following:

1. The students are orderly, cooperative of and respectful.
2. Many teachers are present after school and offer assistance to the students.
3. The students treat the school premises with respect. I have seen no signs of vandalism or damage. Really minimal trash.
4. During the second part of the program which begins after the snack, the Principal Mrs. Crockett or another staff member begins the second session with "A Mindful Moment," a brief inspirational pep talk about success and responsibility.

As a long-time resident I wanted to share my very positive experience in our high school.

Barbara Rogalle Miller
Van Buren resident

Now's the time to try Milton Pharmacy

To the editor:

Any prescription patrons of CVS should rejoice that the store is closing. Now you may try Milton's Pharmacy, which is about four blocks up Main Street (between Second and Third). And, like me, you will be happy that you made the switch.

This winter my doctor wrote a prescription that would have cost me well over \$300 on a monthly basis. June Milton did some research, confirmed that another medicine would help my condition, contacted my physician to OK the substitution, and called me with the good news. I am paying \$30 per month. I never had that happen at a big pharmacy, either in person or online.

Give her a try. You can always go back to the others if you tire of thoughtful service.

Kathleen Walsh
Van Buren Township

Asking patrol officers to check plates, licenses

To the editor:

As we finally start to escape the fog of COVID-19, I know there were some exceptions to keeping license tags, licenses, and even insurance.

I am asking every patrol officer to please be mindful and pull these vehicles over. If there isn't a valid reason, please ticket the person, check the insurance and maybe we can calm people down and learn to live in the area. You can only cheat the system for so long.

How about putting those plate readers to good use and follow up on ones that are expired. It probably does it already. We have got to stop the insanity of drivers out there. Use the darn things and tell everyone that you do.

Also, we need an actual highway patrol. Plus the toll roads coming will be able to know if you speed. Make the aggression go away.

Donald S. Keith
Belleville

Thanks to Jim for plowing heavy, wet snow

To the editor:

Our thanks goes out to the now-retired Belleville Nursery and whom we fondly refer to as "Jim the Tree Guy" on Lohr Road for kindly plowing residents' driveway entrances after the heavy wet snow recently.

This kindness is above and beyond. Jim is one of the many reasons we like living in Sumpter Township for the last 25 years. Thanks again, Jim.

Fred and JoAnne Dinglie
Lohr Road, Sumpter Township

"Out of clutter, find simplicity."

— Albert Einstein

Obituaries



Curry Joseph St Pierre

CURRY JOSEPH ST PIERRE

(June 24, 1933 – March 5, 2023)

Curry St Pierre, age 89, of Van Buren Township, MI, will be greatly missed by his family and friends. He passed away on March 5, 2023, at Provision Living in Canton, MI. He has been married to his loving wife, Phyllis St Pierre for over 27 years and she survives. He was born June 24, 1933, in Grand Point, Louisiana. He was the eldest of seven children born to Rene and Elda St Pierre.

He was preceded in death by his parents and 3 siblings: Helen (Keith) LeBlanc, Myrtis Hymel and Marie St Pierre. His surviving siblings are Merlyn (Percy) Terry, RJ (Eva) St Pierre and Roy (Roberta) St Pierre.

Curry was a proud father of 5 children: Julie (Dale) Martin, John (Denise) St Pierre, Tessie St Pierre, Donna (Chris) Miller. He was preceded in death by one son, Timothy St Pierre. In addition, he has 5 grandchildren: Erica McCoy, Tyler Heagy, Gina Braud, Josiah St Pierre, Sundee St Pierre and preceded in death by grandson Jonah Roussel. He also has 9 great-grandchildren.

He also became an important part of Phyllis' family that includes 4 children, 5 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. He was loved by all. Curry graduated from LSU with a chemical engineering degree in 1955. He was very proud and loved his LSU Tigers. Most of his career was spent working with BASF Corporation where he traveled the world and led a large facility in Wyandotte, MI.

His hobbies included stock market research, short-term trading, sailing as well as spending time with family and traveling. We will be celebrating Curry's life with visitation on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at Janowiak Funeral Home, Geer-Logan Chapel from 3:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Additional services will be held Sunday, March 12, 2023, at Rose Lynn Funeral Home, 1870 Cabanose Ave., Litcher, Louisiana from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Paulina, Louisiana, with visitation at 9:00 a.m. Entombment will follow Mass at St. Joseph Cemetery, Paulina, Louisiana.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Brighton Hospice 26075 Woodward Ave., Suite 300, Huntington Woods, MI 48070, or Ypsilanti Old Regular Baptist Church, 5668 Denton Rd., Canton, MI 48187.

Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, March 9 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township public informational meeting on solid waste collection, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

• Monday, March 13 – Van Buren Public

Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

• Tuesday, March 14 – Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority, 2 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township public engagement evening hours to discuss solid waste collection, 5-7 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, March 15 – Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m.

• Thursday, March 16 – Van Buren Township town hall meeting at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library in Belleville to discuss plans for the Belleville Area Museum that has been closed for 1,102 days.

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Obituaries



Nancy Jean Nemeth

NANCY JEAN NEMETH

(September 19, 1942 – February 23, 2023)

Nancy Jean Wiederhofs was born on September 19, 1942 in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She was one of two daughters born to Charles H. and Jean M. (Voorhies) Wiederhofs. Nancy attended Ypsilanti High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan, graduating with the class of 1960. After high school Nancy furthered her studies at Cleary College obtaining her associate's degree in business.

On September 21, 1963 at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan Nancy married the love of her life: Paul Nemeth. Together the couple would be blessed with two beautiful and supportive children: Traci and Jeffrey. She worked as an accounting clerk for JC Penney for more than twenty years. She retired in 2000 so that she could help care for her two grandchildren, Paige and Brady, whom she loved very much.

Nancy was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Belleville. She was an avid reader, willing to read any type of book if the title caught her eye. She enjoyed working around the yard, gardening and tending to her flowers. Nancy and Paul loved to travel whether it was to Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Boston, Florida, Aruba or her favorite destination the family cabin on Elbow Lake in Meredith, Michigan. She loved animals and for many years had several cats, Bassett hounds, and her most recent fur baby Luke, a Catahoula Leopard dog to complete her home. Nancy enjoyed the holidays. Although she loved to decorate for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Easter, Christmas was her absolute favorite time of year. Nancy enjoyed the beauty of a fresh snowfall and true to form her favorite song was "Let it Snow" and movie "Prancer." All that knew Nancy, reveled at her beautiful heart and generosity. It was often said that she "loved giving more than receiving."

Nancy Jean Nemeth, age 80 of Van Buren Township, Michigan passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at Corewell Hospital in Dearborn, Michigan. She was surrounded by her loving family. Her passing was preceded by her parents Charles H. and Jean M. Wiederhofs.

To cherish Nancy's memory, she leaves her loving husband of fifty-nine years Paul Nemeth of Van Buren Township, Michigan; a daughter Traci (Mike) Beckley of Van Buren Township; one son Jeffrey (Lindsay) Nemeth of Van Buren Township; one sister Judy (Donald) Samworth of Newberry, Michigan; and two precious grandchildren Paige and Brady Beckley.

A celebration of Nancy's life will take place at a later date. Her care has been entrusted to Merkle Funeral Service, North Monroe, 2442 North Monroe Street, Monroe, Michigan 48162. (734) 384-5185. Cremation has taken place through the on-site crematory, Covenant Cremation of Erie, Michigan.

Online guests may leave words of inspiration and comfort or share a photo by visiting www.merklefs.com.



Diana Magdalen
Sobocinski

DIANA MAGDALEN SOBOCINSKI

(November 1, 1941 – February 28, 2023)

Diana Magdalen Sobocinski, age 81, long-time Belleville-area resident, passed away Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at her daughter's home in Tecumseh, MI. She was born November 1, 1941, in Warren, MI, daughter of Harry & Mary (Wolnikowski) Kozlowski. She graduated from Pershing High School, Detroit, MI. Diane was an avid reader. She enjoyed word puzzles and planting flowers. She was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, MI. She was always there for her family and cherished spending time with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Sobocinski is survived by three children Michelle (Scott) Taylor of Tecumseh, MI, Richard "Max" Sobocinski of Belleville, MI, and Tim Sobocinski of Van Buren Township, MI; five grandchildren Cameron (Hailey Suppes) Taylor, Kyle Ackron, Kacey (Dustin) Burwell, Kollin Sobocinski, and Kori Taylor; two great-grandchildren Natelie and Simon; a brother Tommy (Mary) Kozlowski of Detroit, MI; her beloved dog Sarge; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Diane was preceded in death by her parents Harry & Mary Kozlowski, her husband Richard Arnold Sobocinski, who shared 49 years of marriage, a son Brian Sobocinski, a sister Joann Causley, also two brothers David and Harry "Junior" Kozlowski.

A Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 12 Noon at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI. The family will greet guests from 11 a.m. until Mass begins. Father Bryan Shackett will serve as Celebrant.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lenawee and would be appreciated.
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LOTTIE MAE WRIGHT

(January 9, 1930 – February 23, 2023)

Age 93. Survived by four daughters, four sisters, nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Services were March 3 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, with interment at Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Brown Family Center to offer pet loss support group starting April 3

A turning point in our society has occurred in viewing how important pets are to our lives, said Jacqueline Dalzell, licensed mortician and grief counselor at Brown Family Center in Belleville.

They are a family member for many who cherish and love their pet, she said. How does one cope and carry on when their beloved pet has died?

"When we lose them, we grieve, not only for the pet, but for all the ways in which they truly enhanced our lives," Dalzell said.

Have you suffered the loss of a pet? Consider joining the support group which will meet from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Mondays at the Brown Family Center. The group will run for six weeks starting Monday, April 3. Contact facilitator Jacqueline Dalzell at (734) 697-4500 to register.

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Obituaries



Virginia L. Thomas

VIRGINIA L. THOMAS

THOMAS, Virginia L., age 78 of Romulus passed on March 05, 2023 with her family by her side. Beloved wife of Jimmy. Loving mother of Beverly (Steve) Thomas-Jones and the late Vicki Scharp. Dear grandma 'Gigi' of Alley (Aaron) Green, Amanda (Scott) Flores and Evan O'Donnel great 'Gigi' of Ashton, Aria, Athena, Jada, Scarlett and Kirk.

Virginia was an amazing wife, mother, sister, grandmother, and friend. Virginia was a one-of-a-kind caring, loving helpful, and generous person. No one left her table hungry, and everyone was always invited. She loved spending time with her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and those she cherished. She spent 58 amazing, dedicated years with her beloved husband Jimmy. She loved the ocean, her toes in the sand and relaxing under the sun on any beach during their travels. In the days moving forward we remember her as an angel on earth, who is now at peace and called home to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

She is survived by siblings Betty (Jerry) Hankins, Eugene Wright, Phyllis (Herman) Clements and Linda Faye (Bob) Marsh. She was preceded in death by her mother Phyllis Wright, siblings Rachel (Glen) Miller, Hattie Null, Donnie Wright, Douglas Wright, Carl Jr. (Diane) Wright, Jimmy Roger Wright, Nancy Louis Wright, James "Pete" Wright, Larry Wright and Shirley Marie Wright and her sister-in-law Louise Wright.

More Letters

Sumpter legal notices should be in local paper

To the editor:

Every Thursday of every week the editor of this newspaper is busy delivering the latest issues of the Belleville *Independent*, hot off the presses. Over 5,000 newspapers are delivered to various restaurants, gas stations, retail outlets and public buildings in Belleville, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township. An additional 2,000 issues are set aside for pick up, mailed, or available in a box outside of the *Independent's* office on Main Street in Belleville, where a steady stream of residents stop by to get their copy. Retail establishments are glad to have a stack of papers next to their doors; the popularity of the paper makes it a good "draw" for their customers. The paper has been around for a long time, is popular with most folks living in the area, and is a source of local news, and opinions by the editor and residents. It is also the "newspaper of record" for Van Buren Township and the city of Belleville, which means it is the newspaper that prints those municipalities' legal notices; information vital to an informed public.

Sumpter Township also used the *Independent* as their "newspaper of record" for over 13 years, but the township officials decided in February of 2020 to ignore the wishes of the residents, and began placing their legal notices in an obscure on-line publication instead.

Many of those township officials who were around back then are, unfortunately, still around today, and they haven't changed their tune; they still blame the *Independent* for all of the unfortunate decisions they have made over the years, and for their own lapses in judgment. If a township official knocks down a neighbor's fence, they don't blame the official, they blame the *Independent* for reporting it, along with the resident who brought it to their attention, as well. On a regular basis, most of the board members are complicit, well-orchestrated, and bitter rants against the paper, blaming it for every perceived ill in the township. It has become an obsession with some members of the board, to the point of irrationality, which resulted in an ugly display during a board meeting on July

12 of 2022, when the members of the board began another rant against the newspaper, while the editor was there, as usual, taking notes. The angry looks, the loud voices, finally erupted when the editor of the paper stood up and announced she had another appointment, which is not uncommon, and began walking out of the room.

One of the brave fellows on the board began screaming at her as she made her way to the door, and when a member of the audience started to speak in her defense, "I'm not going to sit here while..." his words were cut off sharply as he was double-teamed and also shouted down by the board.

It's time to stop. When a member of this administration disagrees with a particular article or a letter to the editor in the newspaper, he or she should get over it, or try to work it out, and not let personal feelings get in the way of his or her responsibilities.

When you dine at Bobby McShane's, or any of the other popular restaurants in the area, you do not see other patrons checking their phones for the latest on-line local news, but with the *Independent* open on the table. When you visit Ace Hardware in Sumpter Township (with the best customer service this side of the Mississippi) on a Thursday afternoon, they have just received 400 copies of the *Independent*, and if you come back to the store on Saturday, chances are they will all be gone. It is the paper of record for the residents of the township.

Mary Ban, in a letter to the *Independent* on March 31, 2022 said it best, "Have you forgotten you work for us?" and "Drop your corporate anger and hostility toward this paper

and its editor. You are doing our voters a great disservice not to be educated by our local 'paper of record.'"

Finally, at a Sumpter Township board meeting in October 2021, Supervisor Bowman stated, "I have been advertising in that paper for 30 years or longer, I took all of my ads out this week. I don't plan on advertising in that paper again."

Well, here we are in 2023, and I see in the latest edition of the *Independent*, which I read every week, an advertisement for the supervisor's business. He recognizes that the *Independent* has a large following, which is where, of course, Sumpter's legal notices should be printed.

Randy Miller – resident
Sumpter Township



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Saturday, March 11 @ 2pm

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Grandparent's Storytime
Saturday, March 25 @ 11am

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Recycled Crafts
Wednesday, March 29 @ 2pm

Bring your creativity to this STEAM event for ages 7-11.

Drop-In Family Card Games
Friday, March 31 @ 2-4pm

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Family Read is a chance for kids and adults to read *Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yee together as a community, and then talk, craft, and have fun at events at both the Belleville Area District Library and Ypsilanti District Library.

Maizy Chen Book Club
Tuesday, April 4 @ 6:30pm

Talk about the book, brainstorm questions to ask the author. A copy of the book with be provided. Grades 4-7.

Family Read Celebration
Saturday, April 15 @ 2:30pm

Lisa Yee will be joining us for a virtual visit with questions from book club kids. Snacks, activities, and fun will be had after the conversation.



Visit the YDL Family Read webpage to learn more and see what programs are happening in Ypsilanti!

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More Letters

Community Day at 34th District Court is May 5

To the editor:

My name is Avery Taylor and I am the Director of Community Engagement for the 34th District Court. I am contacting you because our second-annual Community Day at the Court is rapidly approaching, and I would like to invite you to join us on Friday, May 5, 2023. Please plan to take part in this amazing event, put on especially for the communities that our Court serves. This event will allow you to interact with all of our judges, as well as our amazing court staff members and other participants. The event will be open to the public from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

We will be extending a special invitation to all of the schools in our district so that they may schedule field trips if they would like to do so. The Community Day itself will include plenty of activities and vendors will be on hand for you to explore, such as food trucks, a car show, public safety demonstrations, bomb squad (K-9 unit), Van Buren PD dive team w/ dive trailer, custom motorcycles, and more. This amazing event is open to the

public, for families and children of all ages from the communities of Belleville, Huron Township, Romulus, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township. So, mark your calendar and come out and enjoy a wonderful day at the court! If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Avery Taylor, 34th District Court
 Director of Community Engagement / Probation Officer
 (734) 941-4463 ext. 264
Ataylor@34thdistrictcourt-mi.org

Some history readers might find interesting

To the editor:

Some history your readers may be interested in:

You reported Feb. 28, 2011, Scott Jones and the BYC requested VBT approval for a 45-boat-slip marina at his N. Liberty Street property. Your March 31, 2011, edition front-page news states "VBT lacks authority to approve BYC marina" and went on to state VBT says they only have authority to approve docks with up to 10 slips. How does VBT now have authority to approve marinas they admit they did not have in 2011?

Your paper is such a gem, and all the work you do to keeping the public informed is much appreciated.

Thank you.

Jack Ridenour
 Van Buren Township



The Belleville Area Museum has been closed by Van Buren Township for 1,102 days as of today. No date set for reopening.

Court Watching:

Melvin Chauncey Moore, 38, of Van Buren Township, had been charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence on Dec. 29 in Van Buren Township. Bond was set at \$5,000 cash or surety.

At his live preliminary exam at 34th District Court on Feb. 22, the defendant was present by zoom because of the inclement weather. Judge Brian A. Oakley dismissed charges without prejudice, and they could be refiled. Case closed.

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Basement fire at The Waverly apts. evacuates three floors, no injuries

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At about 3:30 a.m. on Friday, a fire was reported in the basement of The Waverly apartments in Building #11, across Denton Road from the Diamondback.

Van Buren Township Fire Chief Dave McNally said police were on the scene when the fire department arrived and had already started evacuating residents through two exits and also, with the help of a resident, a ladder was used for evacuation.

He said there were 12 apartments on the three floors evacuated and the smoke was heavy.

Ypsilanti Township Fire Department

automatically comes for mutual aid, he said, but he also called Belleville, Romulus, and Canton to help.

He said the smoke was from the storage area in the basement that residents have access to, but there were no combustible materials.

Chief McNally said Deputy Chief Andy Lenahan, who is a fire marshal, was investigating the source of the fire. Huron Valley Ambulance was on standby but there were no injuries reported.

He said although there was smoke, no one was displaced. He said there was water in the basement, but ServPro cleaning service was on the scene when fire department left.

Two morgue attendants set for probable cause

Two Wayne County morgue attendants, who are charged with robbing a Huron Township mobile home after they had been there to remove a body, have had their probable cause conference reset from March 1 to March 22 at 34th District Court.

The two, Carnell Lamont Franklin-Smith, 34, and Benjamin Ulysses Pearce, both of Detroit had been shown on multiple Detroit television newcasts and the story was told of how they had robbed a dead person.

They are charged with home invasion-first degree and felony firearm on Feb.

15. They were arraigned Feb. 17 while in custody in Huron Township.

34th District Court Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley set personal bond of \$10,000 each. The probable cause conference had been set for March 1 and later adjourned to March 22.

Huron Township Police Chief Everette Robbins said on Channel 2 that he doubts this is the first time they have done this crime and he is certain there are other victims.



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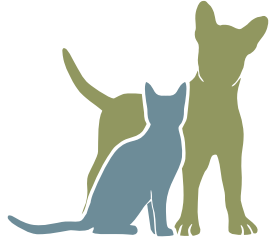
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The Belleville High School Boys Bowling Team won the Regional Championship Saturday, Feb. 25. Bowling members were Johnathan Hatcher, Andrew Folks, Carson Conley, Connor Sykes, Sean Tinsley, and Treyvion Pratt. Coaches are Sam Villa, Phil Roberts, and Sheila Tinsley.

Tree Service

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Court Watching at 34th District Court

Jason Aaron Criss
Jason Aaron Criss, 20, of Van Buren Township has been charged with breaking and entering of a building with intent, assault or assault and battery and malicious destruction of a building on Feb. 25 in Van Buren Township. He was arraigned on March 3 by 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin and personal bond was set at \$5,000. He was not to have contact with the two complainants or to return to Qdoba restaurant, 10889 Belleville Rd. His probable cause conference was set for March 15.

Kuame Demon Scott
Kuame Demon Scott, 27, of Ypsilanti was charged with fleeing police in a vehicle, possession of ammunition by a felon, and driving while license suspended in Sumpter Township on March 1. He was arraigned by Judge Martin while in custody at the Huron Township Police Department on March 3. Bond was set at \$10,000/10% as recommended by Sumpter police and his probable cause conference set for March 16. A warrant from Van Buren Township was noted for driving while license suspended on Dec. 22 and a court date set for March 15 on that charge. That warrant was withdrawn.

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Thirty people were present for Belleville Day in Florida on Feb. 22 in Hernando, Florida. They gathered in Central Florida for a luncheon to share conversation about all the people, places, and things of Belleville. Friends and families reunite at this annual event and discover new connections from Belleville. Mark your calendars for next year -- Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 -- and consider attending. For more information contact Lynn (Akans) Gorman, lynnanngorman@gmail.com.

Birthdays

March 9 – Debra Garland, Alexis Merritt
 March 11 – Michele Stewart, Michael Akron, Megan Fowler
 March 13 – Rhonda Cerone, Thomas Mytych
 March 14 – Robert Griffin
 March 15 – Caroline Durham, Renee Osaer
 March 16 – Gabby Martin
 March 17 – Jewel Butler
 March 18 -- Lettie Sanders
 March 20 – Kenneth Stewart
 March 23 – Jeremiah Meadows II
 March 24 – Annie Burks, Dollie English

Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Let us know and we will print the name as soon as possible. For more information, call (734) 699-9020.

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SOLID WASTE COLLECTION INFORMATIONAL MEETING MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M. VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HALL

The Charter Township of Van Buren will be holding a public informational meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and obtain feedback regarding the upcoming changes to the Township's solid waste collection program and our current efforts to date. Items which will be discussed include the results of a solid waste survey, potential ordinance changes, the bidding process for securing a collection contract, the timeline for any transitions, and fees associated with trash collection.

Please contact Municipal Services Director Ron Akers at 734-699-8913 or by email at rakers@vanburen-mi.org with any questions regarding this informational meeting.

To build a better world, start in your own community!



SOLID WASTE COLLECTION PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENING HOURS VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HALL

The Charter Township of Van Buren will be holding weekly evening hours to allow residents to come in and discuss upcoming changes to the Township's solid waste program. The weekly evening hours are as follows:

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 23 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 27 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The weekly evening hours will be conducted at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Interested residents may also come in anytime during the Township's normal business hours Monday – Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to discuss these items as well.

The purpose of these evening hours is to provide information and obtain feedback regarding the upcoming changes to the Township's solid waste collection program and our current efforts to date. Items which can be discussed include the results of a solid waste survey, potential ordinance changes, the bidding process for securing a collection contract, the timeline for any transitions, and fees associated with trash collection.

Please contact Municipal Services Director Ron Akers at 734-699-8913 or by email at rakers@vanburen-mi.org with any questions regarding this informational meeting.

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



The Family Read event is a community-wide gathering of readers and is open to all and will be held at the Belleville Area District Library this spring. It all kicks off this Saturday, March 11, at 2 p.m. with introduction to books and a family craft to make. On Saturday, March 25, the program is titled "Grandparent's Storytime," beginning at 11 a.m., "Recycled Crafts" is the program on March 29 at 2 p.m., followed by "Drop-in Family Card Games" on March 31, at 2 p.m. Be sure to see the library's ad in today's paper for some events in April and everything else the library has to offer. Visit www.belleville.lib.mi.us.

The Wayne County Fairgrounds is presenting its Corned Beef Dinner fundraiser beginning at 5 p.m. this Saturday, March 11. Tickets are \$15 per dinner and \$8 for children 8 years and younger. Take out is available. Dinner includes corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, carrots, beef stew, rye bread, and dessert. Call (734) 697-7002. Proceeds go to the upkeep of the fairgrounds, a non-profit organization. See their ad in today's paper.

The Belleville/Huron Lacrosse program's bowling fundraiser is this Friday, March 10, 6:15 p.m. with check-in at Lodge Lanes. The cost is \$25 per bowler, which includes two-games of bowling, shoe rental and pizza.

The BHS boys' basketball team (12-10) will face Livonia Churchill (1-21) in the district semifinal on March 8 at Romulus High School. The winner will face the Westland John Glenn/Romulus winner on Friday, March 10, at 7 p.m. The BHS girls' basketball team lost in overtime to Saline in their district tournament on March 4, hosted by BHS. In bowling the BHS boys team placed 9th in the team state finals on March 4 at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. On the girl's side, Belleville's Claudia Jenkins, and Sydney Allison placed 33rd and 48th respectively in the individual state bowling finals held March 5, also at Thunderbowl Lanes. In wrestling, Belleville's Demond Harrison and Connor Williams placed 3rd overall in the individual state finals, held last weekend at Ford Field. Congratulations! All the best to BHS swimmer Thomas Okubo who qualified for the state finals in

the Butterfly event, coming up on March 10 at Calvin College. Spring sports heat up next Monday, March 13, at Belleville High School. Be on the lookout for track and field runners as they travel the streets around town on practice runs. BHS sports include boys' golf, baseball, track, and lacrosse, while the girls start soccer, softball, tennis, and track.

June Milton and Milton's Pharmacy on Main Street in Downtown Belleville offers medication consultations, immunizations, pet meds, and free prescription delivery and it's easier than ever to transfer prescriptions. Visit them on Facebook, and Instagram and call (734) 391-1090. They're open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See their ad in today's paper.

Huron Forestry is a local tree service company in Belleville with over 25 years of experience with tree and bush trimming, removal, and stump grinding to the tri-community and Southeast Michigan. Call Owner Jeff Davis at (734) 308-0398 and see his ad in today's paper.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020.

More Letters

I miss my clients in Belleville, Ypsilanti, AA

To the editor:

The reason I had to retire from my ministry, Heaven Sent Transportation, was due to health reasons. I miss my clients in Belleville, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, etc. My friends at Cedar Woods, Sunnie, Robin, Donna, Lue, Debbie.

I am staying with my daughter for the time being. When it gets warmer, my son Scottie, picks me up. He has a place by the lake in Pinckney.

My last stay at St. Joe's in Ann Arbor shows I am cancer free from colon cancer. I have spent the last 16 years in and out of St. Joe's. I have been blessed every day.

A few months ago, I celebrated 50 years in the ministry at Sacred Heart (Eastern Market district). Father Thomas the pastor has been there over 50 years.

Thanks be to God. May God bless you.

Charlie Crispell
Detroit

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Jury trials reset to April, July, Dec. in Egypt murder cases

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Three separate murder trials will determine the guilt or innocence of the three men who have been in the Wayne County Jail since late 2020 when they were arrested.

The Wayne County Circuit Court jury trial for Timothy Eugene Moore, 37, of Toledo has been reset for July 24 in the shooting death of Elizabeth (Egypt) Covington on June 22, 2017 in Van Buren Township.

The jury trial had been set for Dec. 12, 2022. On Feb. 28, 2023 the final review date, the order was signed for the July 24 jury trial before Judge Wanda A. Evans.

Moore has been in the Wayne County Jail since his Nov. 8, 2020 arrest, along with the two other defendants.

Moore is charged with 1st degree premeditated murder, felony murder, home invasion-1st degree, and four counts of weapons-felony firearm. Another count of possession of a weapon by a felon was dismissed by 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green at the preliminary exam on March 25, 2021.

Shandon R Groom, 30, of Toledo, another defendant in the case, had his case separated from the other two defendants on Feb. 8, 2022 after Judge Evans heard and granted a motion to sever his case from the others and have a separate file. A motion hearing on his case was set for April 22, 2022 and then adjourned until May 9, 2022.

Groom has pled not guilty to charges of homicide-felony murder, home invasion-1st degree, premeditated 1st degree murder, and three counts of weapons-felony firearm.

His jury trial had been set for Oct. 3, 2022 and now has been adjourned until April 10, 2023.

On March 22, 2022 Shane Lamar Evans, 34, of Sumpter Township, had an order for a competency evaluation signed by Judge Evans. A review date on his case was set for May 31, 2022 before Judge Evans.

Shane Evans was charged with homicide-felony murder and home invasion-1st degree.

On Feb. 28, all his competency hearings were complete and he was found competent to stand trial.

His jury trial is set for Dec. 11, 2023.

All three would face life in prison if convicted of their charges.

Egypt was a 2007 graduate of Belleville High School and a popular local singer. She was employed as an account manager for beer and wine distributor Rave and had worked at Johnny's on the Lake and Bayou Grill in Belleville.

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- Ronald Reagan

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Publish: March 2, 2023 and March 9, 2023

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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- Henry Ford

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Sumpter wants to assess whether to repair or replace buildings

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Before allocating any funds for repair of township buildings, Sumpter Township Board of Trustee members agreed they wanted to follow through on an appraisal of all the township buildings to see if they should be replaced instead of repaired.

This was in response to line items proposed by Finance Director Scott Holtz at the Feb. 28 public hearing on the proposed \$5.83 million general fund budget for 2023-24.

Holtz had proposed \$300,000 for a new roof for the township hall and \$300,000 to set aside for emergency use for "surprises."

Trustee Don LaPorte said that \$300,000 number kept coming up and he would like to determine what they are going to do with township hall. He said it should be determined whether they are going to put "lipstick" on this old pig or construct a building more conducive to serving residents.

He also would like to cut expenses so they are not spending more than they're taking in.

Trustee Peggy Morgan agreed, saying she is against throwing good money after bad, by making repairs at the community center and putting a new roof on the township hall. She proposed hiring a grant writer because other communities are snatching up the money available. She said a few grants would go a long way.

Holtz said he's signed up for all grants available and Township Manager Tony Burdick and he are looking under every rock.

Trustee Morgan asked if they were looking at federal funds and Holtz said they can start looking there, too.

Manager Burdick said the township can get a consultant who knows all the grants available. He would be paid a fee for looking and then get a portion of the grant.

Burdick said he is all in favor and has started looking at a number of localized sources.

Trustee Tim Rush, who also serves as deputy supervisor, said Supervisor Tim Bowman presented a conceptual drawing of the community center, but it would take a couple of years.

Burdick said the consultant can be talked about at the next workshop.

Also, during the budget public hearing, Holtz said last year's proposed budget was \$5.6 million and the new budget is \$5.83 million.

He said property values went up 5% and taxes will be going up based on the taxable value of the resident's property. He estimated 15% fewer new housing permits this year.

Under expenses, he proposed seven new

computers to replace those that are seven to ten years old and purchase of new filing cabinets in the clerk's office. He said they have old cabinets leaking asbestos, which is a safety issue.

Holtz said they had put an extra \$30,000 a month to fund the pension for police and now they are 87% funded. He recommended cutting back to \$25,000. He said the board already approved a new police department vehicle.

He said new doors are needed on the community center.

He said the landfill royalty fund, as of March 31, 2022, was \$7.5 million and he has budgeted \$8 million in the new budget. He figures reduced royalties by 15%.

Holtz said the board will have to decide what to do with the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds that they have invested and are maturing April 1.

Also, the Great Lakes Water Authority has announced a 4.7% increase in rates for Sumpter. He said there will have to be a discovery process on whether to raise water rates. He said he would like to see a rise done incrementally rather than one big increase.

Also, he said it is time to have a landfill audit to make sure the township is getting what it should be getting.

Fiscally Ready Communities is a project coming up that determines whether there should be construction or maintenance for five years before starting.

Trustee Matthew Oddy said he would like to have a balanced budget. He said money is set aside, but he doesn't want to use that emergency fund.

He said it would take \$12 million to put up a building to house everything and even if they get grants for half, it is a huge amount of money.

He said he would like to see the \$300,000 for the roof pulled until evaluations are done.

Also, he said the water and sewer funds are separate from the general fund and you don't take money from the general fund to cover the rise in water rates.

LaPorte referred to Van Buren Township's community center now under construction and said Sumpter is using a 75-year-old school for police and a community center that doubles as a senior center.

He said the \$12 million figure will climb to \$14 or \$15 million over the next few years.

LaPorte said he would support funding repairs for buildings in the budget, identified in advance. Maybe the roof needs and patch so they could move into a new building in 18 months.

He said they keep going to this imaginary tree with the million dollar bills hanging on it.

Resident Mary Ban said she would like to see a copy of the budget being proposed at this public hearing and Holtz said he didn't make any copies for the public. He said he didn't know how many to make and he was trying for a cost savings.

In other business at the Feb. 28 meeting, the board:

- Had a workshop with Burdick asking the board how it wants to spend the ARPA funds which has a deadline of December 2024 for a decision and must be complete by December 2026. He asked Public Safety Director Eric Luke to comment on the Human Relations committee's new policy that is coming in the future. Director Luke said there is a retirement within his staff and more are coming because a lot hired in at the same time. An attrition plan will be made to start the process before its needed;

- Approved the recommendation by the planning commission to rezone 45476 Harris Rd. (the former PNA/Moose Hall) from R-2 to C-1. Plans for use of the building are incomplete, said Trustee Oddy, noting the owner is considering a daycare, coffee house, and other uses and is still evaluating the options;

- Approved the attendance of deputy Treasurer Campbell at the MMTA basic institute program April 23-28 with a cost not to exceed \$1,332;

- Approved offering all eligible employees the MedMutual Voluntary & Dependent life program effective March 2023 at no cost to Sumpter Township;

- Approved the fire department grant writing fee of \$5,165 to JW2 Fire Consultants for the 2022/23 FEMA AFG cycle;

- Approved assigning the township manager, township attorney, and public safety director to the Blight Remediation Committee and direct them to address extreme, last-resort blight issues. A municipal civic infraction will be used on the worst cases which could result in the township putting up the money for destruction and, if not paid in 12 months, putting it on the tax bill;

- Approved tabling consideration of four offers for a 69.36-acre parcel on Martinsville Road and asking the two top bidders of \$250,000 each to come back with their highest offer and an intended use, and reinstate the contract with Moving the Mitten real estate which expired in December;

- Approved considering Ashley Harris a deputy treasurer from 12-5 p.m., Feb. 28, and pay her five hours of deputy treasurer pay;

- Heard Mary Ban thank DTE for the incredible job it had to do after the ice storm. She said she hopes DTE will reassess the township's power needs, especially with the bigger homes going in. Concerning the Ohio train derailment and waste coming to Van Buren Township and Romulus. Ban recalled going to EPA meetings years ago when the toxic landfill was being permitted in Van Buren Township. DPW Director John Danci said leachate wells in the Great Lakes area makes no sense; and

- Heard Trustee LaPorte thank the fire chief and fire fighters for the huge amount of calls they covered over a 48-hour period and continued for four to five days after the fact.

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VBT DDA

(continued from page 1)

Brown said you don't want to put a brand-new road over old infrastructure and have things start falling in.

Atchinson agreed that they don't want to put a brand-new road over something that will start crumbling.

McNamara said the stretch being discussed on Belleville Road is one mile long and the road being redone on Haggerty is also one mile long and there is a \$2.5 million cost for Haggerty.

McNamara said the DDA has to discuss how much money it wants to put up front for Belleville Road to get the project moving.

"I think we should go ahead," Atchinson said of serious plans.

McNamara suggested a full board workshop, including Director of Municipal Services Ron Akers, Wade Trim engineers, Merrie Coburn and others.

McNamara asked Coburn to contact Akers and they can talk about it. He said he, Coburn, and Akers have a meeting each week.

The DDA was informed of the \$384,900 grant for the SafeVB Roads and Streets Action Plan and another meeting has been set with consultants to discuss upcoming SEMCOG Transportation Planning and Transportation Alternatives Program grants.

Also, staff has been informed that Belleville Road from Tyler to Ecorse Road has been placed on the Wayne County FAC, TEDF Category C funding for \$2,111,000 for the 2025 funding year.

McNamara stressed that the county will want to see funds coming from the township, as well.

In other business at the brief meeting, the DDA:

- Unanimously approved allocating \$44,264.22 of the previously approved \$64,660.08 to the 2023 DDA streetlighting line item in order to correctly align the budget to the year parts are received. Some replacement parts were received in 2022 and some in 2023 from Great Lakes Electric;

- Heard Coburn report that the two parcels within the DDA district that had filed petitions with the Michigan Tax Tribunal for 2022 have been dismissed; and

- Heard McNamara reply to questions about the hazardous waste from the Ohio train derailment that had been headed to a Van Buren Township landfill. He said while

he doesn't like to have hazardous waste in the township, this is the best place for it. He said the Wayne Disposal facility at the US Ecology site is the finest facility in the state, if not the nation or the world. He said they adhere to very strict guidelines and are very good at what they do. While the hazardous waste shipments to Wayne Disposal have stopped for now, he expects they will be reinstituted because this is the very best place for them to go.

VBT DDA welcomes new executive director, OKs Ireland's help for a year

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
Independent Editor

Merrie Coburn was welcomed by the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority as its new executive director at its regular meeting Jan. 24. Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright swore her into office.

Coburn, who was director of the Romulus DDA and the Romulus Tax Increment Finance Authority, said she had spent 20 years working for Romulus. She said she is married and has two children in the service. She said she is an outlet and advocate for local business.

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved her hiring at its Jan. 17 meeting after a DDA committee recommended her following interviews of four candidates. The DDA board approved her employment agreement and the \$80,000 pay.

The DDA board also approved an agreement with retiring executive director Susan Ireland stating that after Feb. 28, it will pay her \$100 an hour for up to ten hours

a week and 40 hours a month to aid Coburn for a year or more.

Ireland said Coburn will spend the first two weeks in February with her at the DDA headquarters at Harris Park to be instructed in the current activities and history of the DDA.

"We still have five weeks with you," Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said to Ireland, referring to her retirement date of Feb. 28.

Ireland said the two weeks at the DDA headquarters will give them quiet time so she can explain everything.

Supervisor McNamara said the plan is after the first two weeks to have Coburn in the building and planning department at township hall where she will get to know everybody in assessing, department of public services, and the other departments, if the DDA board lets them.

"We at township hall will try to help her," McNamara said.

"We want her to succeed," said DDA chairman Craig Atchinson.

McNamara said he checked her references with officials in Romulus and they gave high praise for her work. "They are sad in Romulus," he said.

In discussing the agreement with Ireland, Ireland said, "I've been with the DDA since the beginning. It's kinda like a baby for me."

She said Coburn also has been active with the Michigan Downtown Association.

McNamara said the first month they can be together, a little the second month, and then as needed.

"After all your hard work, I don't want anything to fall through the cracks," Coburn said.

The board also agreed to pay 25% of the \$48,000 agreement -- \$12,000 -- for a lobbyist for the township to "open doors" in Lansing.

(continued on page 13)

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VBT DDA

(continued from page 16)

At its Jan. 17 meeting, the township board had approved the hiring of Daniel Consulting as a lobbying firm at 50% of the cost with the DDA and the Water/Sewer fund paying 25% each of the total.

McNamara said the state has a lot of money, some \$90 billion surplus, and that money has to go somewhere and he'd like it to "be to us."

He said there is \$28 million that they are trying to break loose for the Iron Belle Trail.

DDA member Mark Laginess asked if this is separate from the funding scout the DDA hired and McNamara said it was.

"This guy will lobby so the funding guy can sit in," McNamara said, noting the firm actually is a "guy and a girl." He said he called a friend, whose wife runs "dark money ads" such as the attack ads they saw

during the last election across the country.

He said David Katz doesn't have any governments as lobbying customers, and he's a Democrat, so, "He'll get us in the door."

McNamara said if the omnibus bill goes though there will be a hunk of money available, including \$100 million for trails.

"We want \$1.8 million and that's his first job," McNamara said, adding that Katz is a friend and Katz, Mike Duggan and McNamara grew up together. He said Duggan is a natural administrator. McNamara said his dad worked with Katz to get funds.

In her last director's report, Ireland said the township is not open on Fridays, but State Rep. Reggie Miller would like to have office hours in the Harris House DDA headquarters on a Friday. State Sen. Darrin Camilleri also wants to have office hours here, she said.

McNamara said Rep. Miller has been named chairperson of the House Agriculture Committee and a chairperson assignment is unusual for a freshman representative. He said she also is on the Economic Development and Transportation committees, which is good for the township.

DDA member Victor DeLibera said the Robotics group uses Harris House every other Monday for meetings.

Ireland said the building use policy has to be put back up.

DDA member Joyce Rochowiak said they need to put community events on the DDA sign out in front and Ireland said they need training on how to do the sign. She said she didn't know how to do it alone, obviously referring to after Lisa Lothringer left as deputy executive director.

McNamara said the DDA needs to be more a part of the community. The DDA discussed having the Belleville Area Chamber of

Commerce meet at Harris House.

Coburn said she is on the Romulus Chamber and she would like to be on the board of the Belleville Chamber. McNamara said he would look into that. Coburn also said she's been treasurer of Aerotropolis for two years.

McNamara said Rep. Miller and Sen. Camilleri could have offices and desks at Harris House.

Ireland announced that Belleville Road from Tyler to Ecorse has been placed on the Wayne County FAC, TEDF Category C funding for an amount of \$2,111,000 for a 2025 funding year. She said the owner of the house with property on the west side of Belleville Road in the right of way is now interested in doing something with the house, which he refused before. Ireland said they will meet with him.



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 - 7:30 pm

The regular meeting of the City Council was held via a hybrid of in-person and virtual access through ZOOM.

The regular meeting of the Belleville City Council was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Bates	Present
Council Member Beebe	Present
Council Member Fielder	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. APPOINTMENTS, PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

A. Presentations

- People's Express – Transportation Services

-- Representatives from People's Express presented information pertaining to their transportation service which would allow residents of the City of Belleville to travel between the City and Ypsi/Ann Arbor, in Washtenaw County.

-- This service is handicapped accessible, with a pick-up/drop-off location at the Belleville Area District Library.

-- The service is free until June, at which point rates would vary based on location.

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Bates approving a transportation route through the City, operated by People's Express, with a pick-up/drop-off location at the Belleville Area District Library.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

B. Council Follow Up List

- No comments.

C. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

- Alex Folks

-- Spoke about a situation that he and his father experienced at the bank when attempting to conduct a transaction that was denied due to possible racial discrimination.

- Becky Hasen

-- Stated she had read an article regarding the soon to open Rusted Crow, which noted there would be boat slips across the street. She inquired as to where exactly the slips would be located.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Fielder, supported by Voigt to approve the agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
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Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 6, 2023, Regular Meeting of the City Council

MOTION: Motion by Fielder, supported by Voigt to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Monday, February 6, 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A. Special Event Application – Cinnamon's Father's Day Car Show

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Bates to approve the Special Event Application for the Cinnamon's Father's Day Car Show.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

B. Goats in Horizon Park – Landscaping/Maintenance

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve a contract with Randy Brown Landscaping to utilize goats to clear the brush along Horizon Park beginning June 8th, at a cost of \$3,995, to be split 50/50 between the City and the DDA.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

C. Planning/Zoning Map Amendment – 515 Sumpter (IP) to (RM)

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Fielder to approve the adoption of **Ordinance No. 23-001** which would amend Section 1 of the official zoning map for the City of Belleville to rezone a tract of land located at 515 Sumpter Rd. from (I-P) Industrial Park District to (RM) Residential Multiple-Family Residential District, and amend Section 2 of the official zoning ordinance to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with these changes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

D. Water Reliability Study

MOTION: Motion by Fielder, supported by Voigt to approve a proposal from Hennessey Engineers to provide engineering services to update the City's 2018 Water Reliability Study, as required by the State of Michigan, at a cost of no more than \$20,500.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

E. Master Plan/Recreation Plan – Giffels Webster

MOTION: Motion by Fielder, supported by Bates to approve the Master Plan/Recreation Plan as constructed by the City's planning company, Giffels Webster.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve **Resolution #23-007** authorizing Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Bates	Aye
Council Member Beebe	Aye
Council Member Fielder	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- City Manager Robinson provided an update about the revised Marijuana General and Zoning Ordinances:

-- Public Hearing regarding the ordinances to be held at the upcoming Planning Commission meeting on March 9th.

-- Introduction of Ordinance to be presented at the City Council meeting on March 20th upon recommendation by the Planning Commission.

- Robinson also noted that the Belleville Yacht Club plans to submit a Special Event Application to hold boat races at this year's Lake Fest.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- Council Member Bates

-- Great to see a full audience in attendance.

-- Exciting to hear the presentation by People's

Express

-- Thanked Alex Folks for his honesty and bravery in sharing his experience.

- Council Member Beebe

-- Noted that the presentation by People's Express was interesting

-- Stated that there are several members of the Belleville High School Wrestling Team that will be heading to regionals.

- Council Member Fielder

-- Stated that the Belleville Area Museum meeting scheduled for February 22, 2023 has been cancelled.

-- Noted that the Belleville High School Girls' Basketball Team has their final regular season game coming up.

-- Attended the most recent Substance Use Disorder Board meeting, and alcohol is still the number one substance causing hospitalization.

- Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt

-- Stated that it was nice to see a full audience in attendance.

-- Pleased with Van Buren Township for being proactive about the closure of the Denton Rd. Bridge.

-- Congratulated the Belleville High School Boys' Bowling Team on being KLAA Champions.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Mayor Conley stated that herself and City Manager Robinson met with officials from Wayne County on Monday regarding the possible installation of a left turn signal at the intersection of Main St. and N. Liberty/Denton Rd. She noted that per the County, a left turn signal light would be more expensive and time consuming to install than updating the timing of the lights along Main St. & High St., however, both options will be explored.

- Stated that she will not be present at the next City Council meeting on March 6th.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Randy Priest

- Thinks that the transportation services provided by People's Express are a good idea, and asked the City Council and City Administration to meet with the Senior Transportation Board to discuss.

- Garrett Kissel

- Noted that the Fire Department will be offering CPR, First Aid, and AED training courses. He stated that sign-up for these classes can be found on the Fire Department's website.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- None

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Fielder to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Briana Hootman / City Clerk

Approved: 3/6/23

Posted: 3/7/23

Published: 3/9/23

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 286 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Feb. 26:

0116 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
0317 – suicidal person, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0657 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
0856 – larceny from auto, Freeport Ct.
0908 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1008 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. /
Belleville Rd.
1011 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1015 – civil matter, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1417 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1503 – 911 welfare check, Oak Ln.
1643 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1646 – civil matter, S. Woodbury Dr.
1648 – animal complaint, Sonda Dr.
1809 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
1823 – intrusion alarm, Florence Ln.
1851 – neighbor trouble, McBride Ave.
1934 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa
1942 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
1951 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
2002 – domestic, Western St.
2015 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2031 – suspicious person/vehicle, Jackson St.
2113 – assist fire dept., Florence Ln.
2213 – domestic, Freedom Way
2227 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Archwood

Monday, Feb. 27:

0348 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0513 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0654 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./Martz Rd.
0828 – intrusion alarm, E. Walden Dr.
0845 – road hazard, Lancaster Dr./Tyler Rd.
0857 – misc. complaint, Rawsonville/Grove
0925 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
0947 – private property impound, Holly Ln.
0952 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1054 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1110 – suicidal person, Winding Pond Dr.
1208 – retail fraud, Michigan Ave.
1257 – road hazard, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty
1307 – property damage accident, W. I-94 /
Haggerty Rd.
1318 – road hazard, Belleville Rd.
1350 – malicious destruction of property, Denton
1612 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1641 – retail fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1650 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.
1839 – property check, Belleville Rd.
1926 – assist fire dept., Oak Blvd.
2059 – follow up by officer, Ayres
2124 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, Nautica Dr.
2234 – shooting, Pinewood Ln.

Tuesday, Feb. 28:

0858 – malicious destruction of property, Samuel
Barton Dr.
0936 – civil matter, Outer Dr.
0942 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1040 – disorderly, Edison Lake
1045 – warrant arrest, Ash Dr.
1051 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1215 – civil matter, Haggerty Rd.
1216 – neighbor trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1241 – civil matter, Ayres Ave.
1551 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
1555 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1705 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1738 – civil matter, Outer Dr.
1740 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1809 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1819 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1825 – property damage accident, W. Huron River
1827 – welfare check, Savage Rd.
1844 – property damage accident, Martinsville Rd.
1947 – civil matter, McBride Ave.
2016 – welfare check, Rebecca Ct.
2044 – welfare check, Robbe Rd.
2116 – welfare check, Jackson St.
2222 – welfare check, Tyler Rd./Hannan Rd.
2321 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
2325 – suspicious person/vehicle, Woodwall Ct.

Wednesday, March 1:

0008 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belmont Dr.

0302 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0556 – overdose, Quirk Rd.
0921 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Quirk
1023 – private property/property damage accident,
Belleville Rd.
1356 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1357 – property damage accident, Michigan Service
Dr. / Cemetery Rd.
1526 – harassment call, Morton Taylor Rd.
1627 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. /
Belleville Rd.
1634 – private property impound, W. Huron River
1712 – assist fire dept., N. I-94 Service Dr.
1724 – motorist assist, Belleville/N. I-94 Service
1925 – suspicious person/vehicle, Morton Taylor
1942 – assist other dept., Michigan Ave./Denton
1944 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.
2023 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
2042 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bristol
2044 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
2153 – private property/property damage accident,
Denton Rd.

Thursday, March 2:

0039 – welfare check, W. Archwood Dr.
0213 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0418 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0510 – suspicious person/vehicle, Amanda Dr.
0934 – threat, Country Walk Blvd.
1016 – suicidal person, Southport Apartments
1120 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
1122 – animal complaint, Michigan Ave.
1151 – lost property/child, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1234 – fraud, Chloe Ct.
1400 – threat, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1409 – assist other dept., Arborview Ln.
1453 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
1539 – assist other dept., Ecorse Rd./S I-275
1619 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1804 – juvenile complaint, Brandi Dr.
1810 – private property impound, Denton Rd.
1830 – 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1924 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2022 – suspicious person/vehicle, Riggs Rd.
2025 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton
2030 – domestic, N. Timberview Dr.
2138 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2231 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.

Friday, March 3:

0033 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0133 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0318 – assist other dept., Denton Rd.
0548 – intrusion alarm, Martz Rd.
0635 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0748 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0817 – civil matter, Richard Run Dr.
0912 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. /
Morton Taylor Rd.
0913 – family trouble, Sugarbush Ln.
0953 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. /
S. I-94 Service Dr.
1026 – vehicle lockout, Chandler
1044 – animal complaint, Lohr Rd.
1050 – civil matter, Sugarbush Ln.
1138 – shooting, Brookside Dr.
1309 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
1318 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1408 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.
1550 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1618 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1638 – welfare check, Village Green Ln.
1639 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler
1640 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1643 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
/ Capitol Dr.
1651 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. /
Park Estates Dr.
1703 – assist other dept., E. Main St.
1708 – welfare check, S. Woodbury Dr.
1734 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, Parkwood Dr.
1740 – family trouble, Denton Rd.
1817 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
/ W. Huron River Dr.
1831 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1834 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /
Ecorse Rd.
1844 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
/ Snow Rd.
1845 – property damage accident, Morton Taylor
Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1849 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./Grove Rd.
1922 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1953 – property check, Belleville Rd.

2016 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Chaney
2038 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
2113 – assist fire dept., Van Buren St./Tyler Rd.
2121 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
2201 – property check, Belleville Rd.
2217 – assist other dept., Ecorse/I-275
2250 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service
2317 – road hazard, Ecorse/I-275
2327 – road hazard, Van Buren St./Tyler Rd.

Saturday, March 4:

0015 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0108 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0253 – mental subject, Belleville Rd.
0310 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Harmony Ln.
0840 – mental subject, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0851 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0957 – private property/property damage accident,
Harbor Ln.
1021 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1034 – animal complaint, Buchanan St.
1043 – vehicle lockout, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1143 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, Ecorse Rd./Hannan Rd.
1143 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1446 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1455 – misc. complaint, Ayres Ave.
1504 – hospice death, Savage Rd.
1511 – assist other dept., N. I-275/Tyler Rd.
1601 – trespassing, Haggerty Rd.
1617 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty/Tyler
1651 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1752 – threat, Ecorse Rd.
1808 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, Denton Rd.
1925 – suspicious person/vehicle, Jackson St.
1929 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, Stamford Rd.
2007 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2009 – neighbor trouble, Beckley Rd.
2107 – welfare check, Oak Blvd.
2322 – warrant arrest, Belleville/Michigan
Also on this week's log are 79 traffic stops, 17 of
which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 26:

0023 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./S. Liberty
0150 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Bay Pointe
0202 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
0324 – ordinance violation, Sumpter Rd.
0420 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1057 – traffic stop, Third St./N. Liberty St.
1141 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Church St.
2053 – assist fire dept., W. Thornhill Ct.
2110 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.

Monday, Feb. 27:

1053 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, W. Columbia Ave./Edison Ave.
1927 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
2014 – suspicious person/vehicle, Fourth St.

Tuesday, Feb. 28:

1631 – larceny, Sumpter Rd.
2029 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
2033 – traffic stop, Fourth St./N. Liberty St.
2043 – traffic stop, South St.
2127 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
2239 – suspicious person/vehicle, South St.
Wednesday, March 1:
0208 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Liberty
0948 – road hazard, N. Liberty St./Main St.
1055 – traffic stop, Madelon St./E. Columbia Ave.
1055 – suspicious person/vehicle, South St.
1914 – animal complaint, Potter Dr.
2112 – traffic stop, Main St.
2153 – assist other dept., Anaheim St.
2159 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.

Thursday, March 2:

0013 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Carmell
0335 – traffic stop, High St./Main St.
0551 – traffic stop, S. Biggs Ave./Huron River Dr.
0640 – traffic stop, Main St./Second St.
0817 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Madelon
1025 – juvenile complaint, Belle Villa
1502 – fraud, W. Columbia Ave.
1554 – traffic offense, W. Columbia Ave.
1851 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
2013 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
2027 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.
2048 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Denton Rd.

Friday, March 3:

0220 – traffic stop, Savage/Madelon
0314 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
1640 – suicidal person, Belle Villa Blvd.
1656 – indecent exposure, Main St.
Saturday, March 4:
0124 – property damage accident, E. Columbia Ave.
/ Madelon St.
0835 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1500 – juvenile complaint, Loza Ln./E. Huron River
Dr.
1545 – parking complaint, Victorian Ln.
1707 – welfare check, Clarence St.
2051 – traffic stop, South St./Henry St.
2228 – assist fire dept., Astor
There are 24 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Feb. 26:

0002 – mental health call, Rustic Ln.
0835 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1140 – welfare check, First St.
1318 – assist other agency, W. Arizona St.
1500 – follow-up investigation, Birch Ct.
1629 – neighbor dispute, Rustic Ln.
1812 – juvenile matter, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1826 – welfare check, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1945 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2112 – fire dept. assist, Delaware St.
2336 – family trouble, Oregon St.
Monday, Feb. 27:
0004 – fire dept. assist, Idaho St.
0032 – suspicious vehicle, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0437 – 911 hang up, 24000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0811 – follow-up investigation, 44000 bl. Willis
1038 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
/ Willis Rd.
1237 – family trouble, Wayside Dr.
1354 – 911 hang up, Mulberry Dr.
1634 – 911 hang up, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.
1709 – welfare check, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1837 – suspicious circumstance, Savage/Bemis
1931 – welfare check, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1933 – fire dept. assist, Indiana St.

Tuesday, Feb. 28:

0941 – civil matter, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
1141 – citizen assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1218 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1249 – suspicious person, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1511 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
1610 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1618 – neighbor dispute, New Mexico St.
1751 – property damage accident, 49000 bl. Bemis
1759 – citizen assist, Montana St.
1828 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1932 – follow-up investigation, Montana St.
2045 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
2219 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
2314 – suspicious circumstance, 41000 bl. Judd

Wednesday, March 1:

0210 – suspicious circumstance, Texas St.
0306 – 911 hang up, Mulberry Dr.
0611 – fire dept. assist, Nevada St.
0645 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0821 – fire dept. assist, Judd Rd./Elwell Rd.
0903 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0921 – suspicious person, Rawsonville/Willow
0923 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1012 – follow-up investigation, 50000 bl. Arkona
1132 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1237 – traffic complaint/hazard, Oakville Waltz Rd.
/ Haggerty Rd.
1334 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1440 – harassment complaint, 23000 bl. Sherwood
1522 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
1542 – death investigation, 20000 bl. Sherwood
1544 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
1611 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
1614 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1935 – suspicious circumstance, 19000 bl. Haggerty
Rd.

2115 – flee & elude police, Willis/Rawsonville

Thursday, March 2:

0811 – fire dept. assist, 40000 Judd Rd.
0822 – fire dept. assist, 8200 bl. Meadow Springs
0839 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0844 – fire dept. assist, Greenmeadow Dr.

(Continued on page 19)

BELLEVILLE AREA MUSEUM MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION

WHEN: Thursday, March 16th at 6:00pm

WHERE: The Belleville Area District Library
167 Fourth Street, Belleville, MI 48111

Please join us at our Master Plan Presentation where Good Design Group will present the proposed master plan, followed by a public comment period!

VISIT US AT: vanburen-mi.org/bam
EMAIL US AT: bam@vanburen-mi.org



VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

1315 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1358 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1518 – suspicious person, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1526 – welfare check, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1643 – found property, Haggerty Rd./Willis Rd.
1719 – 911 hang up, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1738 – neighbor dispute, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
1750 – harassment complaint, New Mexico
1803 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1813 – mental health call, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
1840 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1941 – traffic complaint/hazard, Bemis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
2016 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.
2235 – fire dept. assist, Birch Dr.

Friday, March 3:

0001 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
0016 – family trouble, Washington St.
0036 – harassment complaint, 51000 bl. Willis
0941 – animal complaint, Edgewood Dr.
1004 – missing person, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1008 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1026 – mental health call, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1307 – prisoner transport, Huron Twp. PD
1407 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1413 – welfare check, Mulberry Dr.
1437 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1600 – suspicious person, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1705 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Rawsonville Rd./Judd Rd.
2130 – down wires, Carleton West Rd./Judd Rd.
2222 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sherwood/Willow
2242 – down wires, Willis Rd./Rawsonville Rd.
2259 – down wires, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
2321 – down wires, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.
2332 – civil matter, Greenmeadow Dr.
2338 – motorist assist, Willis Rd./Sumpter Rd.
2347 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willis Rd./Elwell

Saturday, March 4:

0015 – traffic complaint/hazard, 8600 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
0046 – alarm, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
0127 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0224 – traffic complaint/hazard, Bemis Rd./Sully
0629 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
0919 – property damage accident, Willow/Sumpter
0945 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Paris Dr.
1029 – malicious destruction of property, Second
1103 – citizen assist, Nevada St.
1659 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1747 – welfare check, Indiana St.
1815 – suspicious circumstance, Indiana St.
1925 – traffic complaint/hazard, Rawsonville Rd. / Rustic Ln.

Also on this week's log are 148 patrol checks, 46 traffic stops, and 13 misc. details.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, March 11** – The Western Wayne County Quilt Guild members invite children ages seven and up to join them at the Belleville Area District Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to make pillowcases. Please advance register at (734) 699-3291. Children will be grouped by age.

• **Monday, March 13** – “They Called Us Girls: Stories of Female Ambition from Suffrage to Mad Men” will be presented virtually by author Kathleen Stone at 6:30 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library or via zoom.

• **Tuesday, March 14** – “Introduction to Computers” is set for 1:30 p.m. at the Sumpter Media Center at 23465 Sumpter Rd. This introductory class is designed for the absolute beginner. We start by teaching you how to turn the computer on. Learn about desktop and laptop computer set-ups, basic functions, and get lots of practice using the keyboard and mouse. Registration required.

• **Thursday, March 16** – Belleville Area Museum Master Plan Presentation at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth St., Belleville. Van Buren Township's consultants, Good Design Group, will present the proposed master plan, followed by a public comment period.

• **Friday, March 17** – St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township, from 5 to 8 p.m. or until gone. Dinner is corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, rutabagas, bread and butter. Cost: \$15.

• **Saturday, March 18** – Part three in the “Preserving Family Heritage” three-part series begins at 2 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library with a workshop concentrating on preserving books and documents. Registration is required.

• **Sunday, April 2** – Bugles Across America starts at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on High Street on the lake in the city of Belleville. The brief ceremony honors all veterans, living and dead, with a pledge to the flag, National Anthem, and Taps. Everyone welcome.

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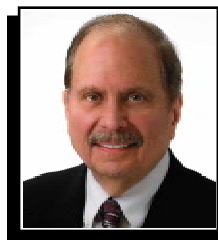
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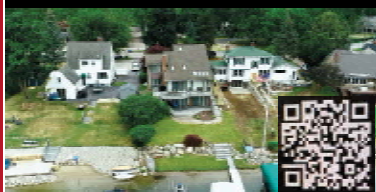
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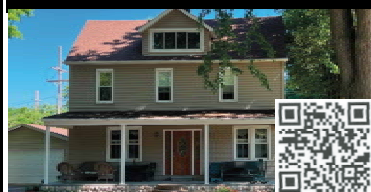
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